

There is disclosed a method for treating antiviral treatment naives patient having chronic hepatitis C infection to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA involving a combination therapy using (1) a therapeutically effective inducing amount of ribavirin and a therapeutically effective induction dosing amount of pegylated interferon-alfa, e.g, pegylated interferon-alfa-2b for a first treatment time period sufficient to substantially lower detectable HCV-RNA, followed by (2) administering a therapeutically effective amount of ribavirin and an therapeutically effective amount of pegylated interferon-alfa, e.g. , pegylated interferon alfa-2b for a second treatment time period sufficient to eradicate detectable HCV-RNA at least by end of the second treatment time period and to maintain no detectable HCV-RNA for at least 24 weeks after the end of the second treatment time period.